IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, amend the paragraph starting at line 2 and ending at line 3 as follows:

-- This application is a continuation of application no. 09/700,598 ~~filed November 16, 2000~~ which is a United States National Phase Application of International Application PCT/DE00/00669 of March 7, 2000 claiming priority of DE 199 11 770.5 of March 17, 1999, the National Phase Application having a date of receipt of 35 USC 371 requirements of January 8, 2001.--.

Pages 7 and 8, amend the paragraph starting on page 7 at line 15 and ending on page 8 at line 7 as follows:

-- Referring to the drawings in particular, a ball pivot 3 has a joint ball 3.1 inserted into a housing 1 having a bearing shell 2 to form the ball-and-socket joint. A ball race 5 of U-shaped cross section is placed on the ball pivot 3. The snug fit of the ball race 5 on the ball pivot 3 is preferably achieved by means of a force fit. A sliding ring 6 of L-shaped cross section is inserted into the ball race 5 having a U-shaped cross section. The sliding ring 6 has an axial extension formed as an axial leg 6.3 and a radial extension formed as a radial leg 6.4. The edge area 4.1 of the sealing bellows 4 is received between these legs. A surface of the edge area 4.1 of the sealing bellows 4 is in direct sliding contact with the inner surface of the ball race 5. This connection represents a labyrinth seal 4.3, 5.1 at the same time. On the contact side of the radial leg 6.4 of the sliding ring 6, the ball race 5 has lugs 5.2. These lugs, directed in the axial direction before the mounting of the sliding ring, are deformed after the insertion of the sliding

ring 6 into the ball race 5, so that a sliding pair is formed between the ball race 5 and the sliding ring 6 with the sliding surface of the sliding ring 6, facing the ball race 5, moving relative to the ball race 5.--.